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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy HELSINKI

DESP. NO. 318

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE November 21, 1958

REF : EmbDes No. 333, November 17, 1958

	ACTION	DEPT.	
For Dept. Use Only	EUR-5	RMR-2	IRC-8 U/O-1 U/O P-1
	REC'D 11/25	INFO OTHER	IA-1 ISO-4 Army-4 Navy-3 Air-1 OCB-1

SUBJECT: Renewed Debate on Fe... Soviet Relations

After a relative lull, probably resulting from concentration on the Nordic Council Meeting in Oslo, press and public discussion of the Soviet campaign of passive pressure against the present Finnish Government was revived on November 18 with a new kind of editorial in Agrarian "Maakansa" (translation enclosed). The editorial was vaguely worded, but obviously sought to make the point that Finland could not afford to call the Soviet bluff, either because it might not be a bluff or because, even if the call succeeded, Finland would lose in terms of future Soviet confidence in its complete "neutrality" (read, pliability).

The other side of the argument was stated in a speech in Tampere on November 17 by Conservative Diet Member Tuure Junnila, only brief passages of which appeared in the Helsinki press (Finnish text forwarded separately to BNA and DRM):

"The question can no longer be examined only from the economic point of view. The question now concerns much greater values than economic ones. The question concerns no less than our right to decide what sort of a Cabinet we want to have in this country. Certainly we must stick to this right of ours even at the price of economic losses.

"To avoid all unnecessary irritation, but to remain strong and to prepare calmly for the difficulties of adjustment — that is the line of action we ought to follow, if the present crisis in foreign policy cannot be settled. We shall overcome the crisis in due course, if the nerves of the present Government parties are strong enough. But this is the weakest point in the whole constellation at the moment. Everybody knows that the weakest link in the chain of the Government parties is the Agrarian Party.

* * *

"The great political question of today accordingly is whether the Agrarian Party can withstand this pressure, whether the party's new line which rejects plans for a people's front and with the help of which the present Cabinet was formed, or whether victory in the party will be won by those who more or less openly are trying to push the present Cabinet aside."

DEC 3 - 1958
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This Document must be returned to the RM/R Central Files.

660E.61/11-2158

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Dispatch No. 1,342

FROM: American Consulate General, Panama, Panama

TO: The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: Panama Canal Zone Coastal Defenses

DATE: November 19, 1941

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Page 3 of

Bridge No. 3016

Dept. No. Bridge

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Summary translation from "Maakansa" November 18, 1958

HOW MUCH WE CAN STAND?

"A Finnish soldier corresponds to ten Russians" - "But what shall we do when the eleventh comes?" (Quotation from VK A. Linna's "Unknown Soldier")

The above quotation comes to mind when we follow the recent discussion of the status and development of Finnish foreign policy. It seems that the weakness in political thinking of the Finnish people, and its representatives, are again springing up, and that the question of our country's foreign political position has come a cropper, and that once again we may be about to follow a stupid foreign policy program.

Some people say that it is only a question of standing firmly for about six to nine months, then the matter will be settled.

Recently this theory of the economic circles has been adopted by certain political groups. What will be clear is not explained. Here we can count until ten but if the eleventh comes . . . .

Again there are loud-mouthed heroes in the field, who speak about the unbending, obstinate Finns and glance darkly around to service notice on those who try to spread some sense in the groups: that is so much submissiveness and cowardice.

During the past months a less praiseworthy chapter has been written in the Finnish political history. How long will this continue?

If old Paasikivi, who tried to teach our people foreign political thinking, could listen to such discussion between some "geniuses", he would certainly turn in his grave and heave a deep, sad sigh.

Translator: Mirja Easton

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